The Southern PATRIOT

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BUILDING HOSPITALS ON SAND

It is saddening to read reports every day of large sums of money, great quantities of material and tremendous effort being expended on public buildings that are not really public—on social services which service only one segment of society.

Such edifices are being built on sand and the sands of their time are fast running out. They are doomed to become lofty monuments to a stupidity which died hard.

One could indulge the builders' folly, were they not, by their actions, literally jeopardizing the health of the communities they enhance. For who can passively await History to rebuke these archaic architects when the heartbeat grows weak of a critically ill man whose skin color denied him adequate care?

Yes, building a humanitarian institution which picks and chooses its humanity is inexcusable.

It is for that reason we are wholly disapproving of such schemes as that one Dr. Rev. Amos H. Carnegie is sponsoring.

As founder and president of the National Hospital Foundation, he is soliciting a grant of $2 million with which to build a 200-bed Negro hospital in Washington, D. C.

He hopes to gain another $2 million for this purpose through one-dollar memberships in the foundation solicited by pastors of Negro churches.

Rev. Carnegie's professed intentions are worthy: he has been appalled by the poor medical facilities available to his people.

But while the hospital, nominally, would be interracial, the spirit in which it would operate can be gauged from this quote from the reverend:

"Until the Negro race—15 million strong—has something to offer to this partnership, the idea of integration is merely empty talk. If one side does all the giving and the other side does all the receiving, it is not reciprocity. The one that does the giving will feel a sense of superiority and the other that does the receiving will feel a sense of inferiority."

Rev. Carnegie sanguinely envisages that his District of Columbia structure will be a "pilot plant" for a country-wide network of such institutions. But he does not outline in any detail where medical staffs comparable to those of existing hospitals can be found to operate his chain. "Segregation and equal treatment are mutually incompatible" is a maxim that lacks exceptions.

What is more important, he denies the dignity and birthright of the people whose case he is pleading by urging them to secede from a social development in which they — his negatory remarks not withstanding —have participated.

For a contrasting and more healthy view, consider this report by a recent patient in the Negro ward of Duke University Hospital:

"Recently I was a patient at Duke University Hospital . . . The medical care and attention given me were excellent . . . However, Nott Ward which is reserved for Negroes boasts only one filthy bathroom for both men and women. One would suppose that the barest instinct for decency would dictate the provision of separate toilet facilities . . .

"Just as disturbing is the fact that almost without exception, Negro patients are addressed by their first names, while white patients are given their titles. . .

"I have no feeling of personal indignation. Fortunately, my self-respect is far too deeply rooted to be ruffled by the bad manners of others. I am, however, distressed because the attitude exhibited at Duke University hospital is not in harmony with the concepts of individual freedom, worth and dignity as broadcast by the "Voice of America.'"

It is not unreasonable to assume that the fact of segregation itself, implying inferiority, led Duke's otherwise competent medical staff to tolerate deplorable toilet facilities and to offend the sensibilities of their Negro patients.

In sum, let us have hospital space for all Americans. But let us not jerry-build "separate but equal" hutches which besmirch the dignity of builder and tenant alike.

The answer is integration. And the time for integration is now.

Attorney THOMAS W. JOHNSON, shortly after beating by Sheriff Gay.

Peonage Expose Leads to Beating

Testimony on peonage in Georgia brought Mr. Thomas W. Johnson, Macon attorney and SCEF board member, a brutal beating at the hands of the county sheriff involved.

Johnson had recently testified before Senator Hubert Humphrey's Senate Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations, telling how the family of a Laurens County Negro had been held hostage for an alleged $200 debt.

The Sheriff of the county, Carlos Gay, appeared before the same body to explain why he had jailed as "Communists" two CIO organizers he had seen talking with Negroes.

Subsequently, Johnson went to the Sheriff's office on routine business. According to Johnson, Gay cursed him, said, "You go up to Washington and tell lies about me," then ordered him to leave.

Johnson said he started to leave, then "he hit me on the side of the head and knocked my glasses across the room. Then he hit me several more times.

"I did not at any time strike him or attempt to strike him."

When Johnson bent over to get his glasses, the sheriff kicked him in the stomach, knocked him down and beat him as he was lying on the floor.

The attorney, who suffered possible

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CHILDREN HELD HOSTAGE FOR "$200 DEBT"

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fractures of a hand and ribs, a sprained jaw and a cut ear, was outweighed about 120 pounds by his assailant.

The SCEF was written U.S. Attorney Howard McGrath, Justice Department, Washington, D.C., demanding a full investigation of the incident. We urge our readership to do so also.

The following is, in substance, Johnson's testimony before the Senate panel:

Some time during the latter part of June or the first of July, 1950, a Negro by the name of James Edward Day, Jr. was sent to my office by the District Attorney's Office in Macon. Day was visibly upset and disturbed and said that Mr. William Balote who operated Naval Stores at Mentor, Georgia, which is 12 miles east of Dublin, had his four children and refused to let him have them.

Children's Desperate Plight

I asked him what the situation was, and he told me that he had gone to work for Mr. Balote some time prior, that Mr. Balote had worked him unmercifully, had only paid him two or three dollars a week, and had refused him any medical attention although he was unable to pay for it himself. He said that his children were without sufficient food, that they had no clothing . . . and that they did not have enough to eat.

He had put up with this situation as long as he could and finally ran away. He ran away because he was afraid to let Mr. Balote know he was going. He said that Mr. Balote was a dangerous man and would have probably killed him if he had known he was going.

Some time after he had left Mr. Balote, probably three weeks or a month, Mr. Balote and two other white men came to where he was staying, and Mr. Balote told him he had a warrant for him, and if he did not come back down there and go to work, he was going to put him in jail. They cursed him, and he became alarmed and accompanied them back to Mentor.

After about a week or ten days he again ran away and went back to Twiggs County. After contacting the Welfare Department to try to get the children, he came to the F. B. I. Office in Macon, and was sent by them to the District Attorney's Office, and the District Attorney's Office in turn sent him to me.

After he told me his story, I told him I felt sure that Mr. Balote would not want to keep the children and that I could get them without too much trouble, so I called Mr. Balote on the telephone, and he told me that he would be glad for me to come and get the children. So the next morning, which was somewhere around the middle of July, 1950, I drove down to Mentor to get the children.

Mr. Balote was in his store or commissary, and two other young men were there. I told Mr. Balote that I had come for the children. He asked me where Day was, and I told him that Day had not come because I had not thought it was necessary.

He said, "I wanted that God-damned nigger to come down here because I want to put him in jail." I said, "I didn't know you wanted him, therefore I didn't bring him." He said, "Well, I want him to come and get the children," and I said, "You should have told me that yesterday when I was talking to you, because at the time I told you that I was coming after them."

I told him that I did not think he ought to refuse to let me take the children back in view of the fact that he had promised me the day before that I could get them if I came for them. Finally he told one of the young men in the place to go up and have Lula get the children ready. (Lula, as I found out later, was Lula Warren, a Negro woman who lived in one of his houses and who was keeping the Day children.)

While the children were being dressed, Balote told me that Day had abandoned his children. I called his attention to the fact that Day had been trying to get his children continuously since he had left there. He said that Day owed him $200.00 and he thought that he should pay it. I told him that I knew nothing about the obligation, and that if he would prepare a statement I would turn it over to Day and suggest that he pay it if he owed it, but that Day had told me that he (Balote) was indebted to him.

In a few minutes the boy who had gone to see about getting the children ready returned and stated that Lula had said that she was not going to let the baby go. I asked Mr. Balote if it would be all right for me to go up there and talk to Lula and explain the situation.

He said it would be all right, but when I started he stopped me and said that I need not go as he had decided that the children were not going and that he would hold them until his $200.00 was paid. I asked Mr. Balote if he intended to hold the children as security for the debt, and he said he didn't give a damn what it was called, but that he intended to hold them until his money was paid.

I said that he surely could not be serious about this, and he said he was, and that he would call his lawyer and see what he had to say. So he called his lawyer, Mr. Jimmy Nelson in Dublin, and told me the situation as he had told me, and after the conversation with the lawyer, he refused to turn the children over to me.

I then left and went over to Dublin to see Mr. Nelson, Mr. Balote's lawyer, because it was difficult for me to believe that a lawyer had advised Mr. Balote to hold these children until a debt was paid. I went to Mr. Nelson's office and told him what the situation was. He said that he knew because he had just talked to Mr. Balote.

Attorney Advises Holding Children

I asked him if he had advised his client that he could hold the children, and he said that he had. I asked him if I were to understand that he was holding the children as hostages until the debt was paid, and he said no, that Day had abandoned the children. I asked him if, assuming that Day had, they had a warrant against him for abandoning the children, and said that if they had a claim I should be glad to see if I could get Day to pay it, but that I could see no connection between holding the children and a debt on account.

He said that that was it and that we would not get the children until the debt was paid. So I left Dublin and returned to Macon and prepared a writ of habeas corpus for the children and filed it around the latter part of July, 1950.

On the day of the trial, I carried Day to Dublin with me, and as soon as he entered the Courtroom he was arrested by the Sheriff and placed in jail on an abandonment warrant. When the habeas corpus was called for trial, I had the Sheriff, Carlos Gay, bring the prisoner from the jail for the trial, and he returned him to jail when the case was over. The children were delivered to us without a fight.

Their Mother is confined in the State Hospital for the Insane, and their Father was placed in jail. The Negro people of Dublin responded to the situation, and a Negro preacher took the children into his home. A Negro group in Dublin appealed over the radio for clothes for the children. They were practically naked. The youngest child who was two years old at the time, was covered with sores and appeared to have been beaten.

I then set about getting Day out of jail on bond, but met with a brick wall for more than a week. I offered several

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Amidst Outrage Decency Glows

Last summer was a hot, violent season and especially in the rural South did the Negro, traditional scapegoat, suffer at the hands of traditionally brutal "Law."

Excruciatingly funny—and terrible—was the incident at Indianola, Miss., where a deputy sheriff and a self-appointed assistant beat three Negroes into confessing a murder which never happened. The "victim" was alive and well in East St. Louis, Ill.

As laughable was the case of Max Ingram, Yanceyville, N.C., farmer, who was sentenced to two years in prison for "looking" at a white girl at a distance of "75 feet."

There are those who are mean enough to suggest that this "thought rape" conviction came about because Ingram was getting too prosperous to suit his white neighbors. In any event, there is strong hope that a reversal may be obtained—provided defense funds are forthcoming.

These two cases were the "cream" of a sorry sequence of squalid beatings, unjustified arrests and suspicious convictions.

But even against this backdrop, stirrings of conscience made themselves manifest.

For the first time in the history of Mississippi, the death penalty was sought for a white man charged with the rape of a Negro woman. The defendant was speedily acquitted—no doubt the unusually severe punishment asked by the state played a part in this—but a precedent was set in the land of Willie McGee.

In Winton, N.C., an angry judge explicitly attacked the "double standard" that favors the white in instances of morals offenses.

A white man had been charged with the rape of a 15-year-old Negro girl.

An all-white jury changed the charge to "carnal knowledge" and acquitted him.

Judge Henry A. Grady, bitterly denouncing the jury, immediately ordered the defendant rearrested on the rape count.

"The evidence was overwhelmingly in favor of the state," he said. "The verdict was based solely on the fact that the prosecuting witness was a colored girl and the defendant a white man.

"I am ashamed of my state."

A federal district court has ordered the city of Louisville to permit Negroes to use city golf courses and to fish in Cherokee Park Lake or provide them with substantially equal facilities, but upheld the ban on their admittance to Iroquoise Park Amphitheatre.

Children Held Hostage

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people as bondsmen who had been regularly going on bonds in Dublin, and had been accepted by Sheriff Gay as good bondsmen, but he turned them down on technicalities. I then offered him a surety bond, and it was turned down.

More than a week later I got Day out on bond by having a bondsman in Bibb County sign a bond, had it approved by the Sheriff of Bibb County, and had it signed by a nominal bondsman who lived in Laurens County.

I was told by Day that during the time he was confined in jail that Mr. Balote came to see him several times, undertook to get him to come back to work, and assured him that he would have the prosecution dropped if he would come back to work for him. He said further that he would cancel any claim he had against him and that all he wanted to do was to get him back out there to work. Day refused.

He also told Day that his lawyer had abandoned him, that the lawyer had sent his children off to a hospital in north Georgia, and that the lawyer was doing nothing for him and could do nothing for him, and that the only way he could get out of jail would be to agree to come back to work for him.

Sheriff Gay, so Day told me, was present at at least one of these conferences, and knew what was going on.

Egad, Cunnel Jim Crow, Suh!

A Northwestern University psychologist has found that Negro babies are smarter than white infants the same age.

The IQ superiority was 105.6 to 103.

The unconsciously ironic explanation of this phenomenon was that in the typical Negro home, with more people living in smaller quarters, the child receives more contacts and stimulation.

Henceforth let there be no more complaints about slums. Congestion breeds geniuses!

Teachers Union Bans New Jim Crow Locals

The American Federation of Teachers (AFL) at its 1951 annual convention voted not to charter any more locals that practice racial segregation. No steps were taken concerning existing Jim Crow chapters.

TRENDS

Miami's new million-dollar public library opened in fine style by making its facilities available to all citizens, black and white.

Heretofore Negroes had been restricted to "their own" tiny branch.

Credit for this progressive move largely belongs to Mrs. Frances Parsons, chief librarian.

* * *

The National Bar Association tabled a motion condemning segregated law schools, but did condemn "segregation in all its forms" at its St. Louis convention last month.

* * *

Delegates to the American Teachers Association convention heard Dr. Charles Thompson, dean of Howard University and SCEF board member, predict the early establishment of integrated schools.

Young white people in the South are ready for integration, he said. "They are tired of the chicanery and hypocrisy encouched in the monstrous fiction of separate but equal."

"No longer do we ask for what we can get," he declared. "We now demand that which is rightfully ours."

* * *

Should the Clarendon County decision stand, could the South foot the bill of "equalization"?

A United Press survey of 11 States indicates that Negro schools—in value of physical properties alone—are $400 million inferior to their white counterparts.

Georgia, with Negroes making up one-third of the enrollment, has five times better facilities for whites. Mississippi, with a fifty-fifty division of students, has has a four to one ratio.

The UP estimated that it would take 10 years to equalize school systems—provided the white facilities remained unchanged.

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